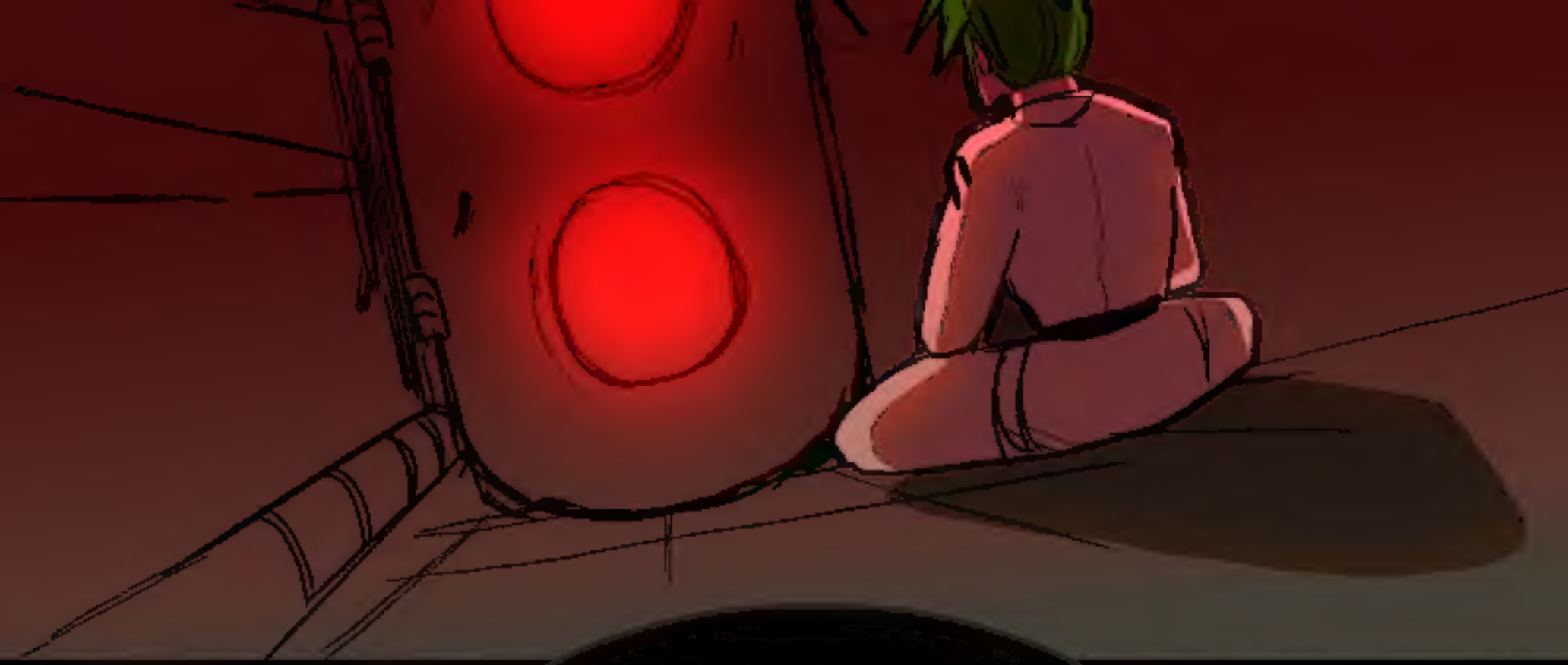
YOU WERE RIGHT...
DON WAS HIDING THE SHARD OF THE BOSS SWORD.

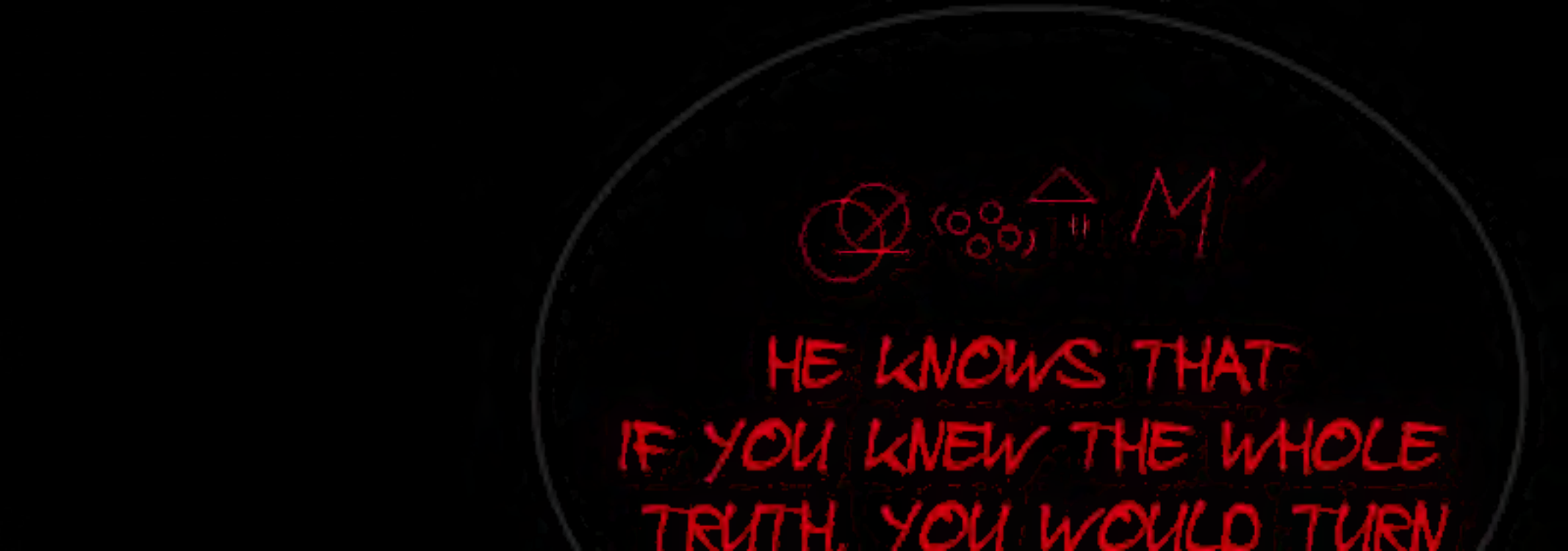
AND IF THE REST OF WHAT YOU SAY IS TRUE... HE'S HAD IT SINCE BEFORE I ARRIVED IN THE ROOM OF SWORDS.
AND HE DIDN'T JUST FIND IT LAYING AROUND... HE KNEW EXACTLY WHAT IT WAS.

WHICH CAN ONLY MEAN... THIS ISN'T THE FIRST TIME WE'VE TRIED TO RESTORE THE ROOM OF SWORDS, IS IT? THIS HAS ALL HAPPENED BEFORE...
I JUST DON'T REMEMBER. BUT DON REMEMBERS EVERYTHING, DOESN'T HE?



YOU ARE
FINALLY BEGINNING
TO SEE THINGS
CLEARLY...

BUT WHY WOULD HE LIE ABOUT IT? WE'RE ALL COLLECTING THE SWORDS... WE WANT THE SAME THING...

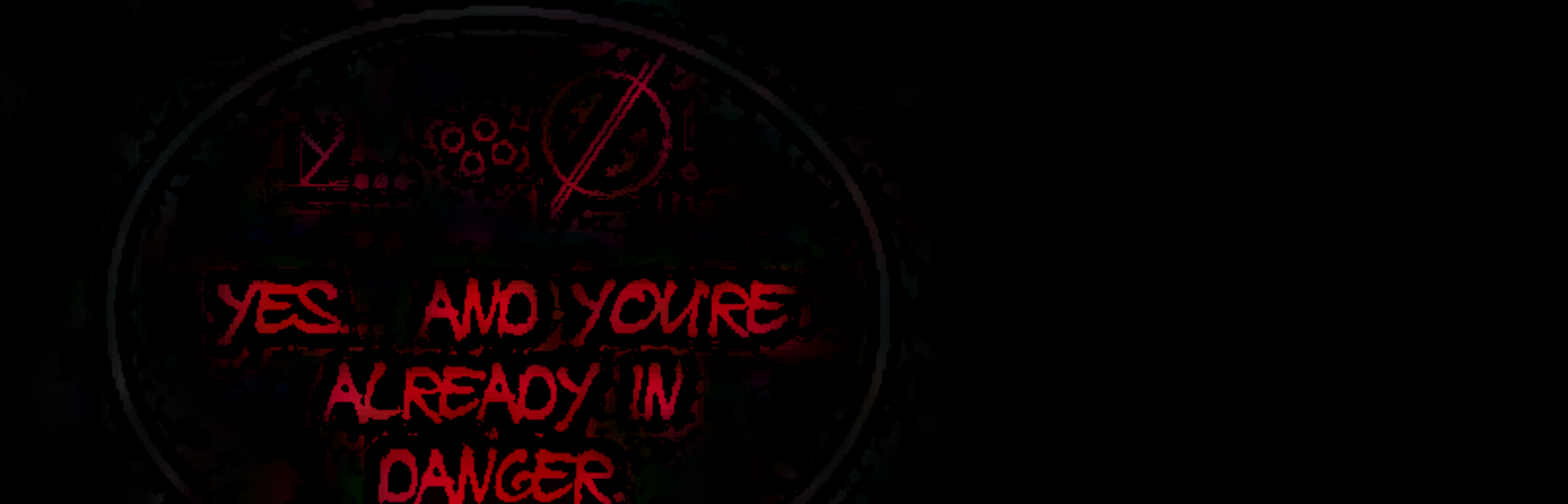

HE KNOWS THAT
IF YOU KNEW THE WHOLE
TRUTH, YOU WOULD TURN

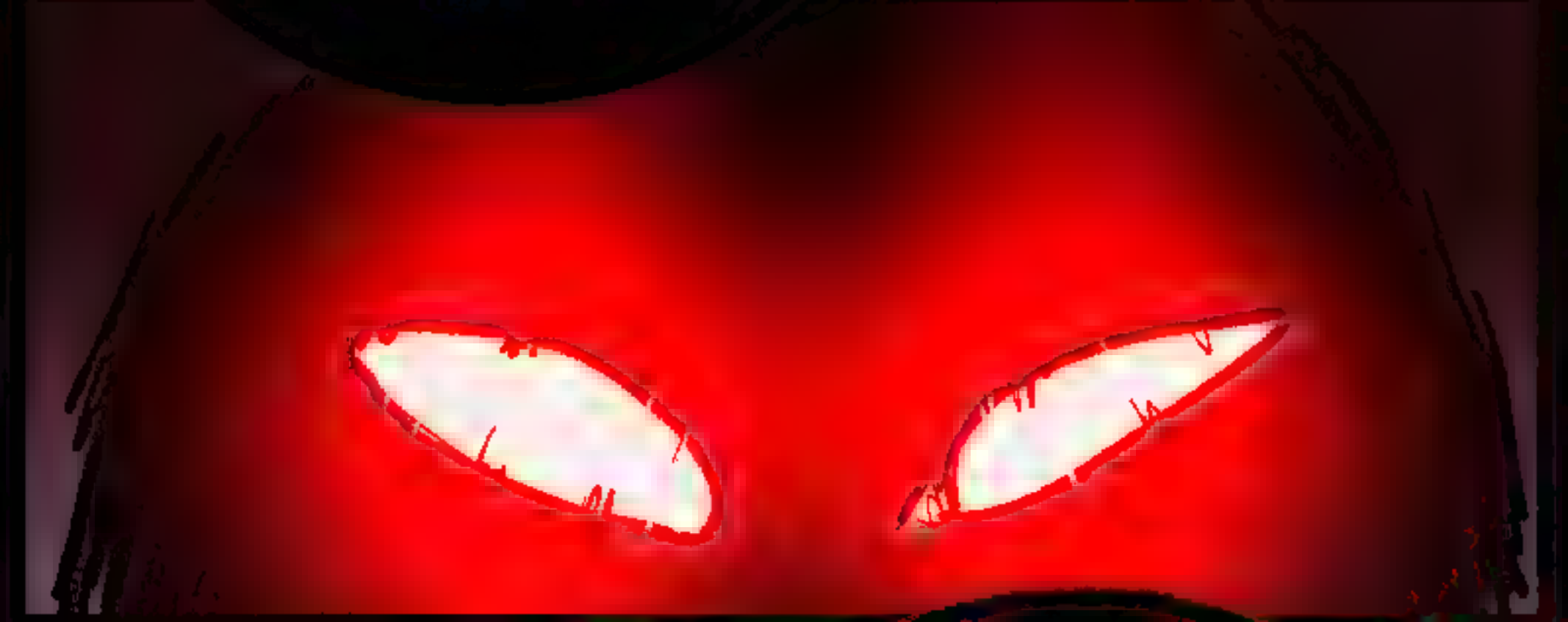
AGAINST HIM.

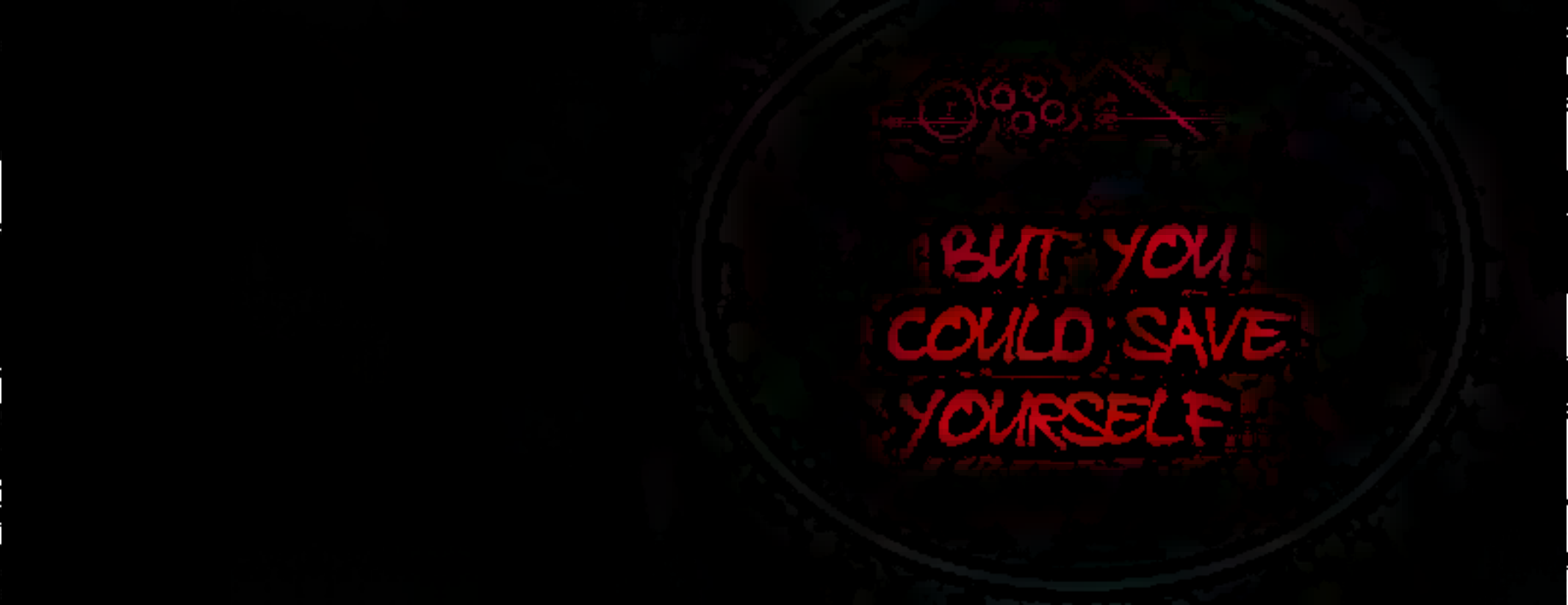
AS YOU HAVE
MANY TIMES
BEFORE.

AS SOON AS YOU NO LONGER SERVE HIS PURPOSE, HE WILL WIPE THE BOARD CLEAN AND TRY AGAIN.

YOU'RE SAYING HE'LL KILL ANYONE WHO STARTS WORKING AGAINST HIM?


YES. AND YOU'RE ALREADY IN DANGER.




BUT YOU
COULD SAVE
YOURSELF

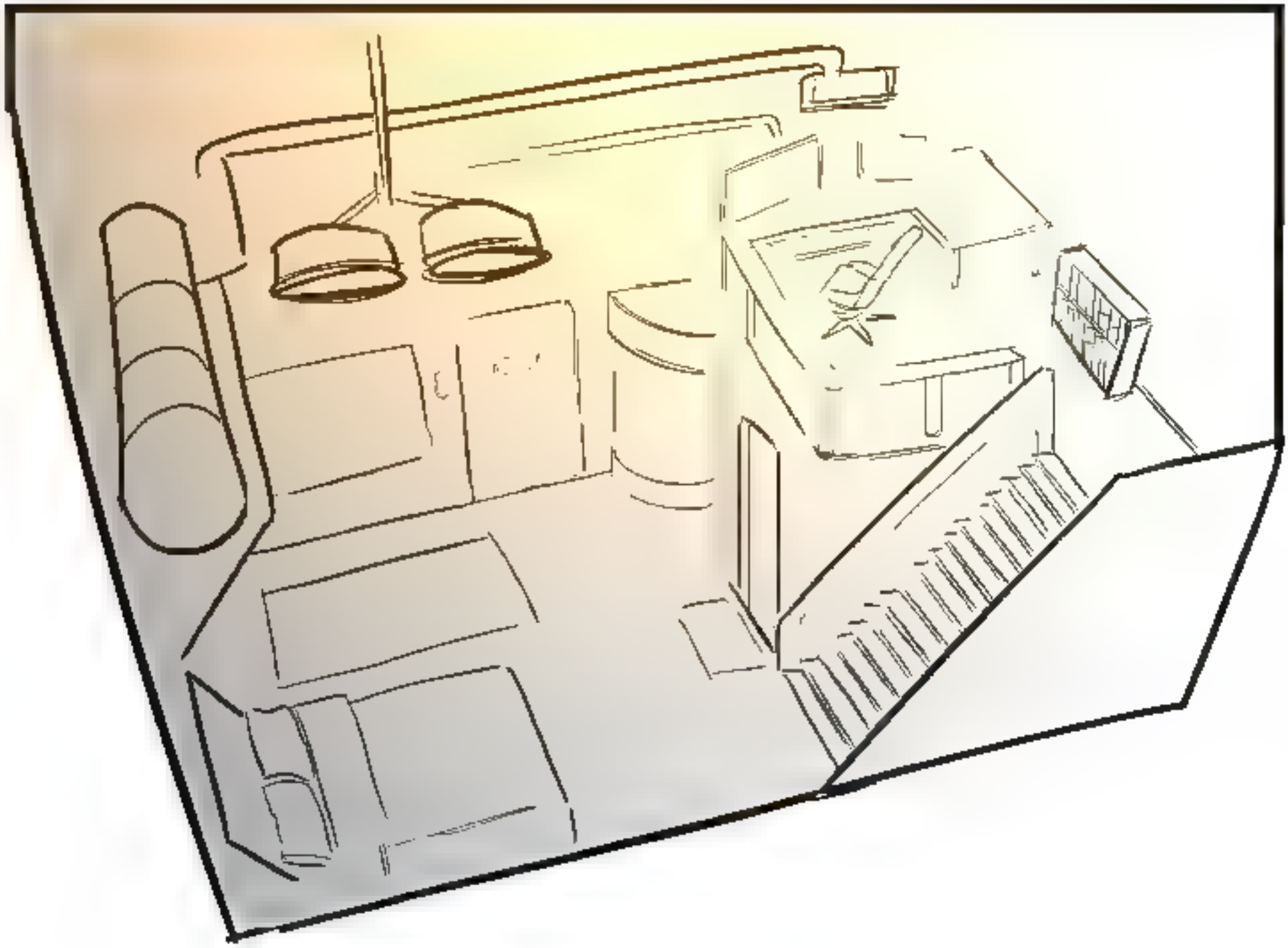
IF YOU EMBRACE YOUR TRUE NATURE...

YOU COULD BE IMMORTAL

STORY/ART: TOONIMATED

CHAPTER 104

"WHATEVER IT TAKES"



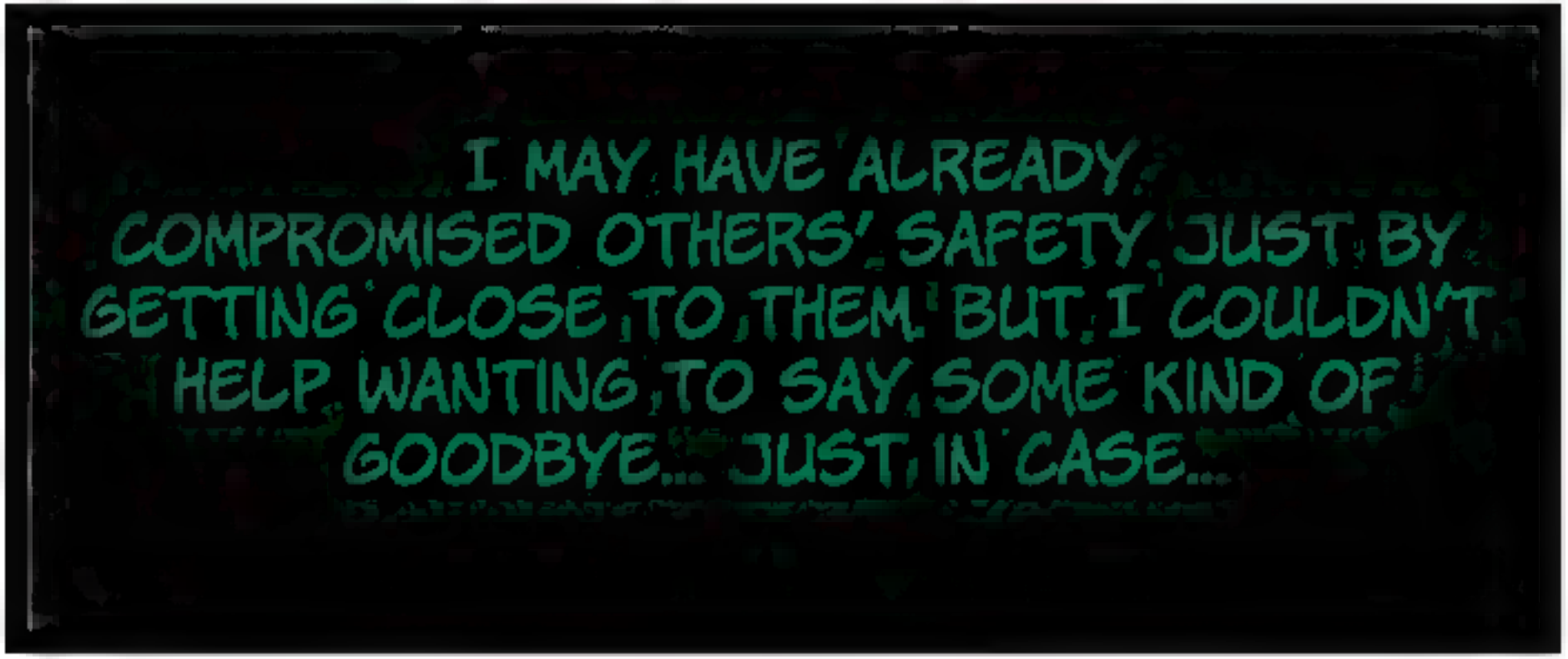
I COULDN'T TAKE ANY CHANCES... EVEN IF DON WEREN'T A KILLER... THE POSSIBILITY WAS THERE. AND THERE WAS ALREADY ENOUGH EVIDENCE THAT HE WAS LYING ABOUT THIS BEING THE FIRST TIME WE WERE ALL HERE.

IF DON REALLY WAS DANGEROUS AND I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO KNEW ABOUT IT, THEN IT WAS MY RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT US FROM FALLING INTO HIS TRAP. WHICH MEANT PLACING MY TRUST IN THE SHADOW'S METHODS FOR NOW...

PROMISE ME SOMETHING...

IF I EVER GET RESET, TELL ME ABOUT EVERYTHING I FORGOT. IT AS MUCH DETAIL AS POSSIBLE.

I COULDN'T RISK ANYONE EXPLAINING WHAT I WAS ABOUT TO DO IN CASE DON FOUND OUT. IF HE REALLY WERE A KILLER, WHAT MIGHT HE DO TO SOMEONE HE SAW AS AN ACCOMPLICE?


I MAY HAVE ALREADY COMPROMISED OTHERS' SAFETY JUST BY GETTING CLOSE TO THEM. BUT I COULDN'T HELP WANTING TO SAY SOME KIND OF GOODBYE... JUST IN CASE...

JUST PROMISE ME.

...OKAY,
I PROMISE.

THANKS,
I JUST NEEDED
TO HEAR THAT.
ROUGH DAY.

WAIT, ARE YOU GOING SOMEWHERE?
JUST TO THE TEMPLE TO MEDITATE...

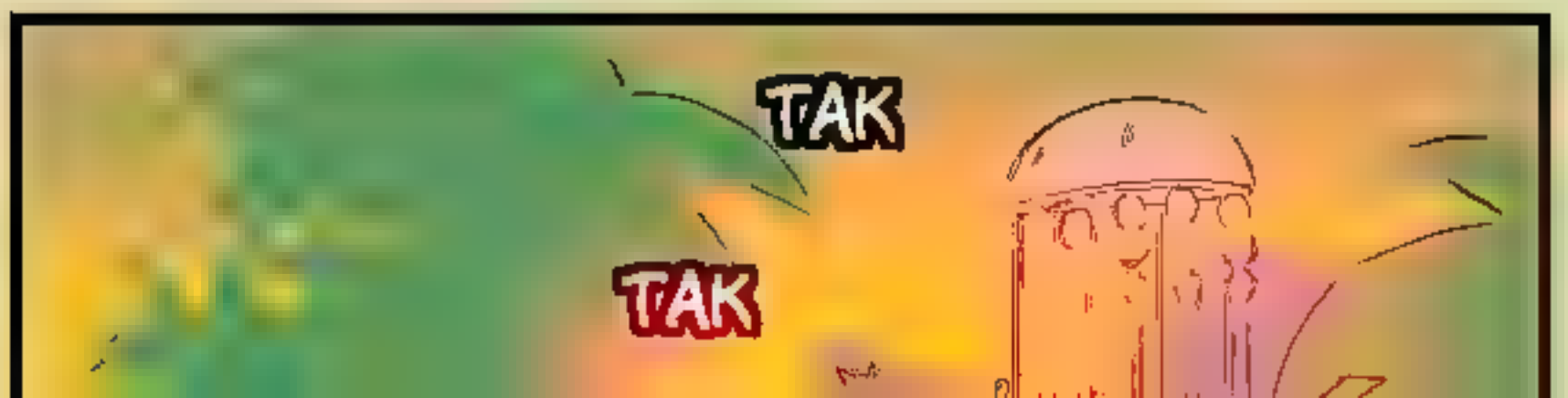
YOU'RE GOING OUT THERE ALONE A LOT RECENTLY...

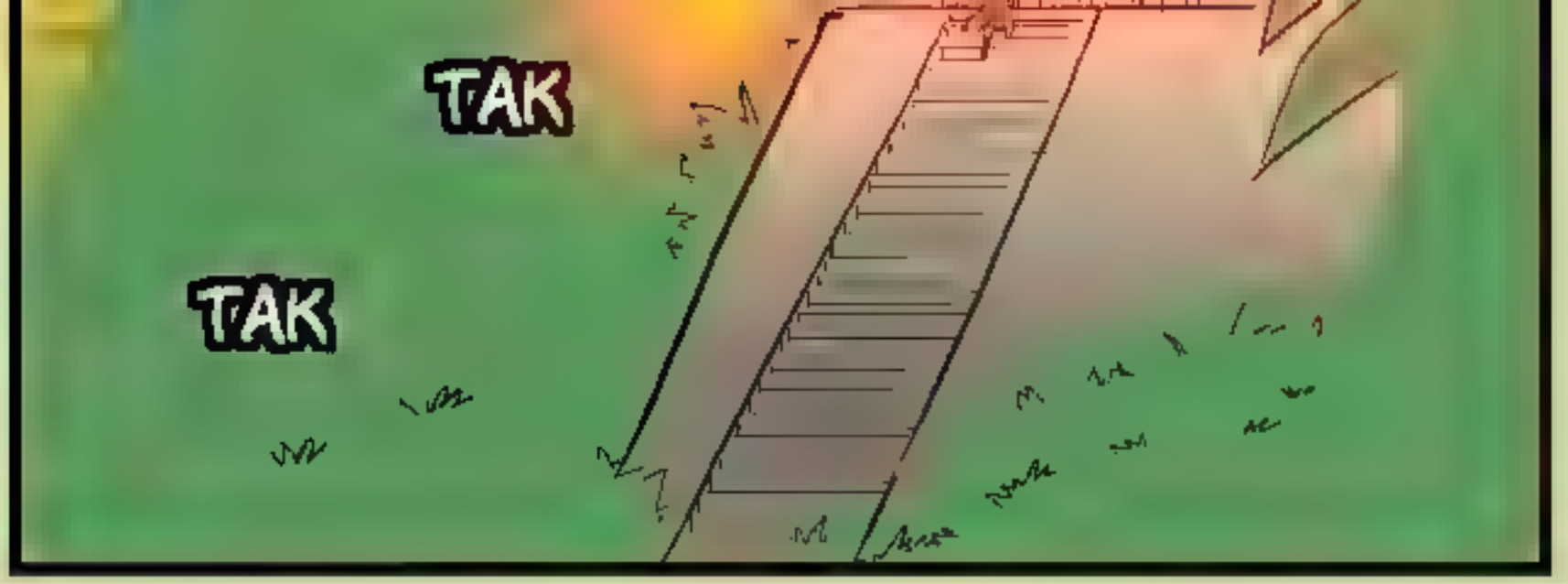
WHY DON'T I COME WITH YOU?

NO.
I'LL BE PRACTICING MY BREAKING POINT...
IT'S SAFER IF NO ONE IS NEARBY.

JUST GO BACK TO SLEEP, I'LL BE HERE IN THE MORNING.

TAK

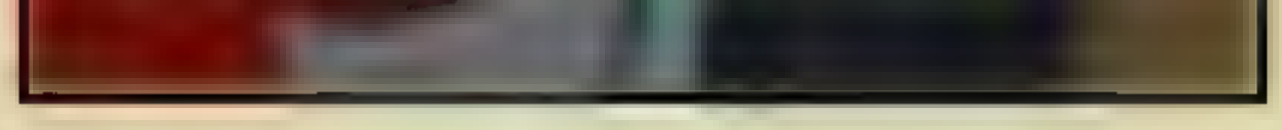

TAK
TAK


TAK
TAK

I USED PARTS FROM THE ARM TO BUILD A VESSEL THAT COULD TRAVEL BETWEEN REALMS JUST LIKE THE ARM COULD.

OPEN

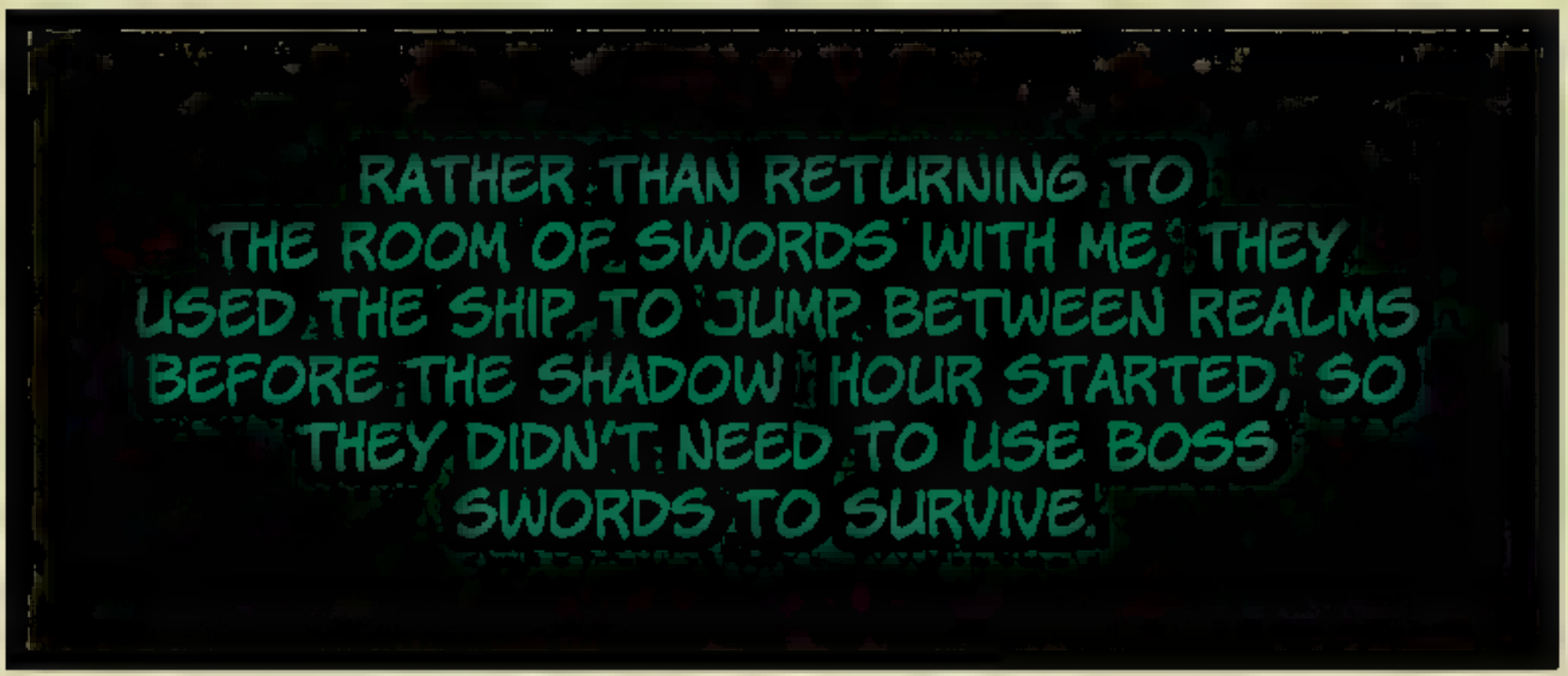
GYRUS!
THE HERO RETURNS!

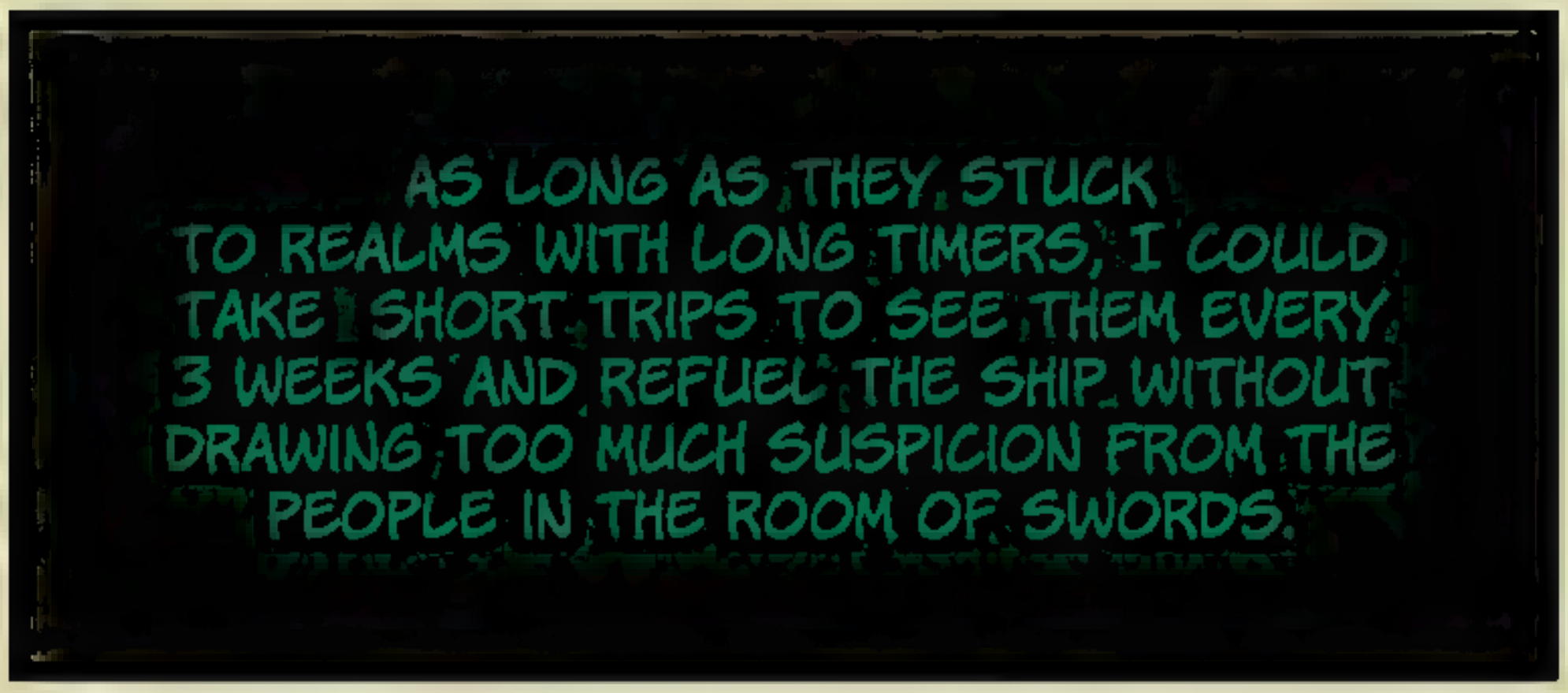


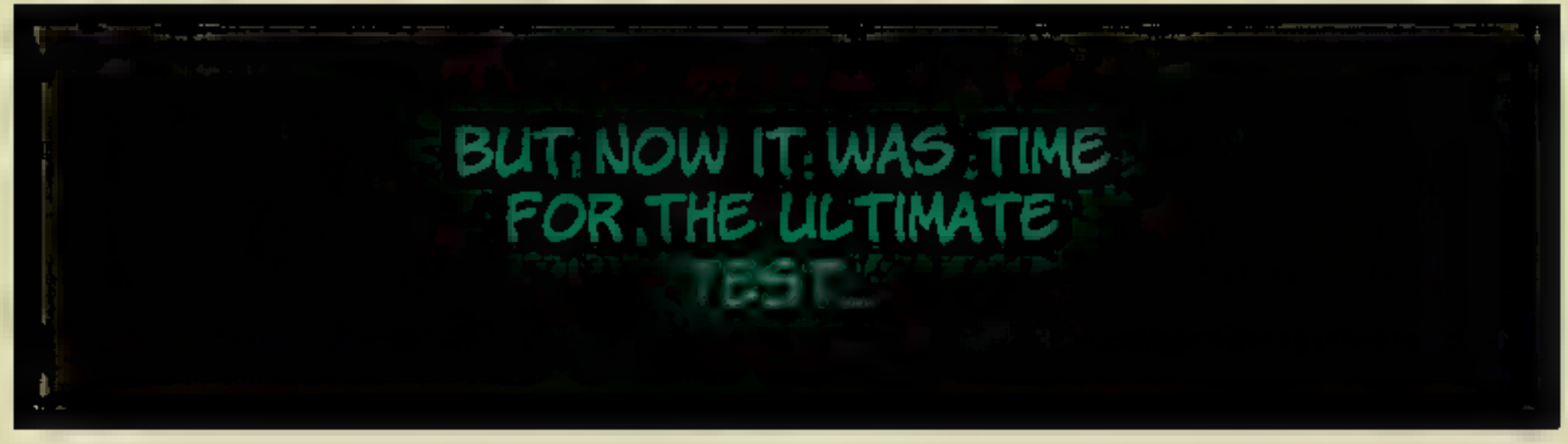
THEN I WENT BACK TO THE BEACH, REINTRODUCED MYSELF TO MARIA AND ALASTAIR... AND BROUGHT THEM ABOARD.

RATHER THAN COME BACK WITH ME TO THE ROOM OF SWORDS WHERE I FEARED FOR EVERYONE'S SAFETY, THEY STAYED ON THE SHIP.

I KEPT THE SHIP STOCKED WITH A RESERVE OF MY ENERGY, GOOD FOR FOUR JUMPS. EACH JUMP WOULD TAKE THEM TO THE BEGINNING OF THE MOST RECENT VOYAGE IN ANY OF THE REALMS.


RATHER THAN RETURNING TO THE ROOM OF SWORDS WITH ME, THEY USED THE SHIP TO JUMP BETWEEN REALMS BEFORE THE SHADOW HOUR STARTED, SO THEY DIDN'T NEED TO USE BOSS SWORDS TO SURVIVE.


AS LONG AS THEY STUCK TO REALMS WITH LONG TIMERS, I COULD TAKE SHORT TRIPS TO SEE THEM EVERY 3 WEEKS AND REFUEL THE SHIP WITHOUT DRAWING TOO MUCH SUSPICION FROM THE PEOPLE IN THE ROOM OF SWORDS.


BUT NOW IT WAS TIME
FOR THE ULTIMATE
TEST

THIS SHOULD HOLD YOU OVER FOR A WHILE.
MIGHT AS WELL GIVE IT MY ALL.
BLP
BLP
BLP

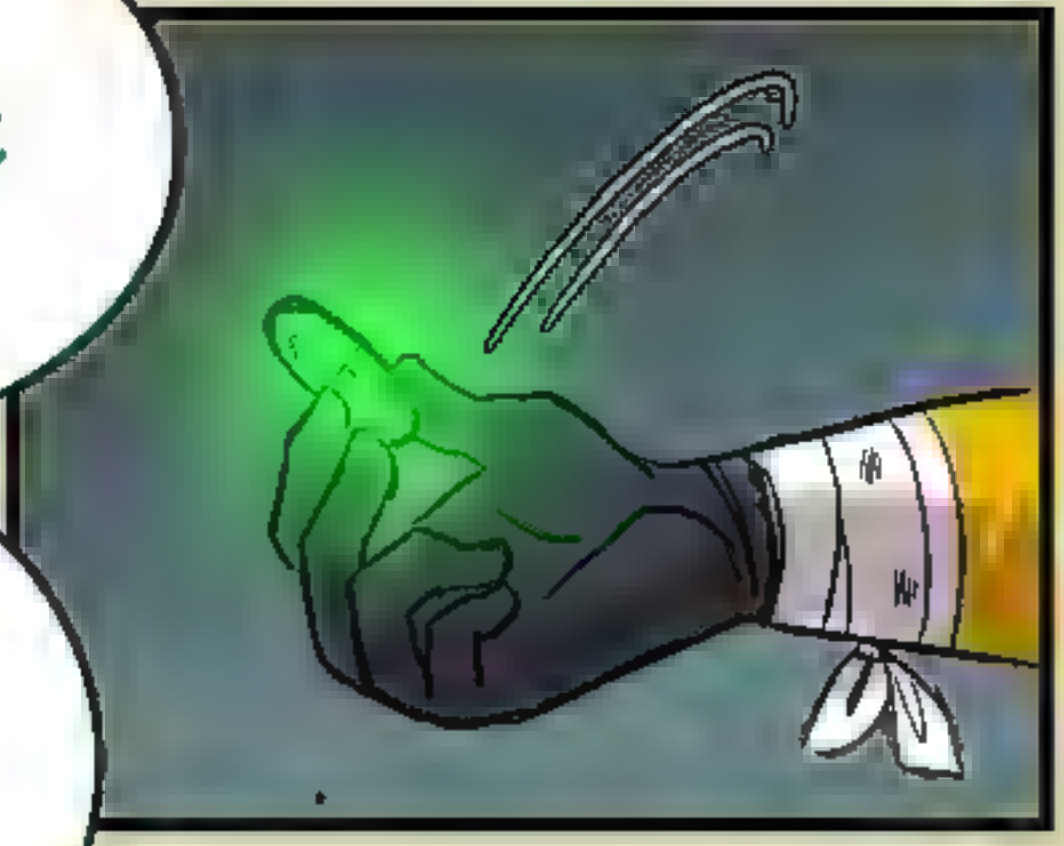
YOU'RE REALLY SURE ABOUT THIS?

YOU COULD JUST STAY HERE WHERE IT'S SAFE...

I'M SURE.
THERE ARE PEOPLE I NEED TO PROTECT...
IF THIS DOESN'T WORK, WE'RE AS GOOD AS DEAD ANYWAY.

KEEP THIS SAFE FOR ME.

I DON'T WANT IT TO GO MISSING WHEN I'M RESET.



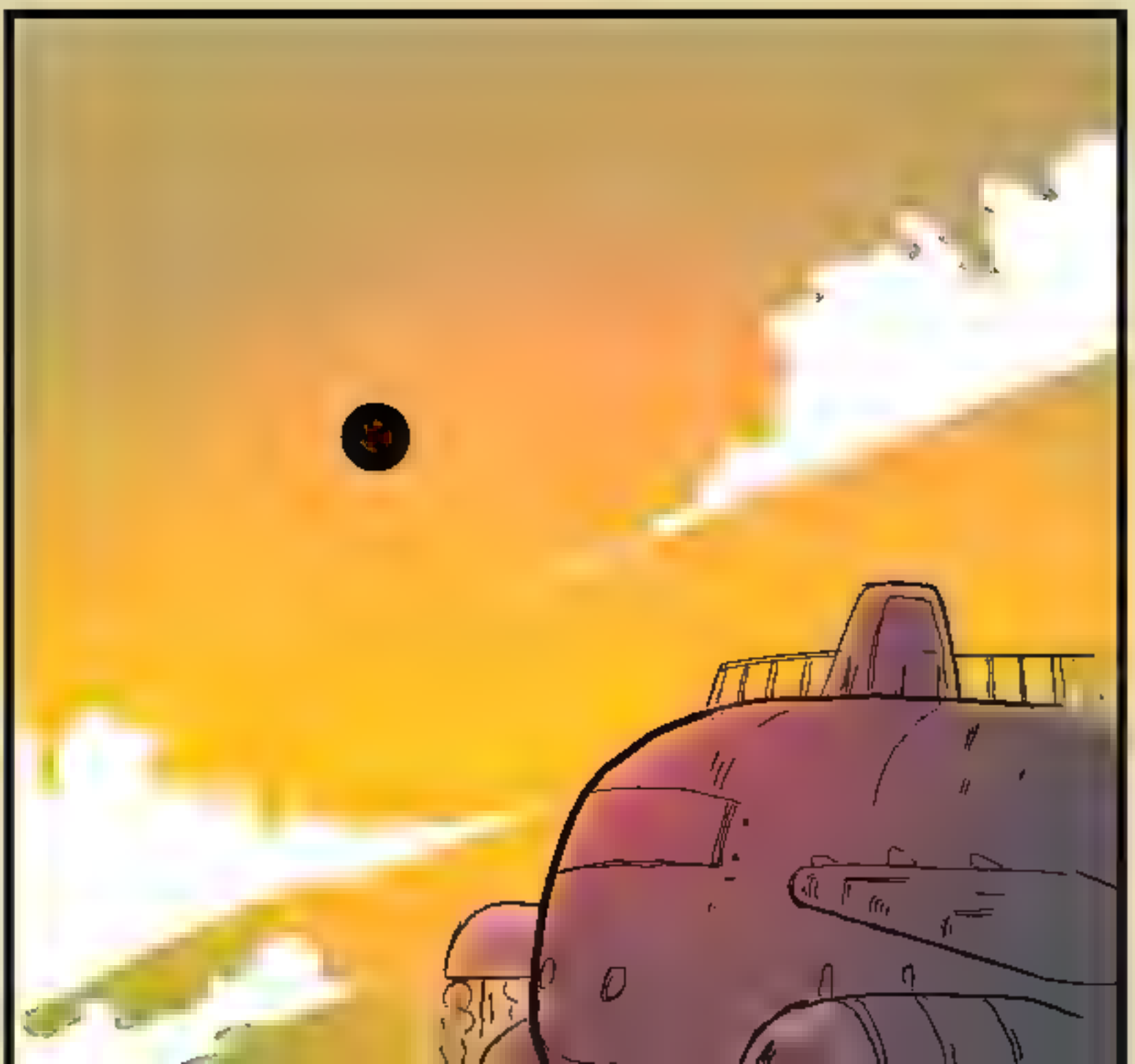
ARE YOU ALL CLEAR ON THE PLAN?
YEAH. ALASTAIR WILL TAKE THE SHIP TO THE BEACH.
I'LL USE YOUR SWORD TO MEET YOU IN THE NEXT VOYAGE.

THEN ALASTAIR WILL COME BACK FOR US IN THE SHIP AND WE'LL TAKE YOU TO THE ICE REALM TO RECOVER.

YEAH, THAT'S ABOUT IT... LET'S HOPE THIS WORKS.

DON'T WORRY... WHATEVER HAPPENS, WE'LL LOOK AFTER YOU.
SEE YOU ON THE OTHER SIDE, OKAY?

EXHALE



BLAM!

HAS ANYONE HEARD FROM THE SEARCH PARTY

FOR THE WEST SIDE OF THE TEMPLE?!
WE NEED A HEALER IN FOR THE JUNGLE SEARCH PARTY!
HE'S OUT THERE SOMEWHERE, WE CAN'T GIVE UP!

KEEP LOOKING!
TAK
TAK
TAK
DID YOU CHECK TO THE SOUTH?

OYE, KODYA!

HOW MANY TRIPS HAVE YOU BEEN ON?
YOU SHOULD TAKE A BREAK... LEAVE THE SEARCH TO THE REST OF US FOR NOW.

I'M FINE, JUST GETTING MORE SUPPLIES AND GOING BACK OUT.

I CAN SEE THERE'S NO CHANGING YOUR MIND.
BUT BEFORE YOU GO...

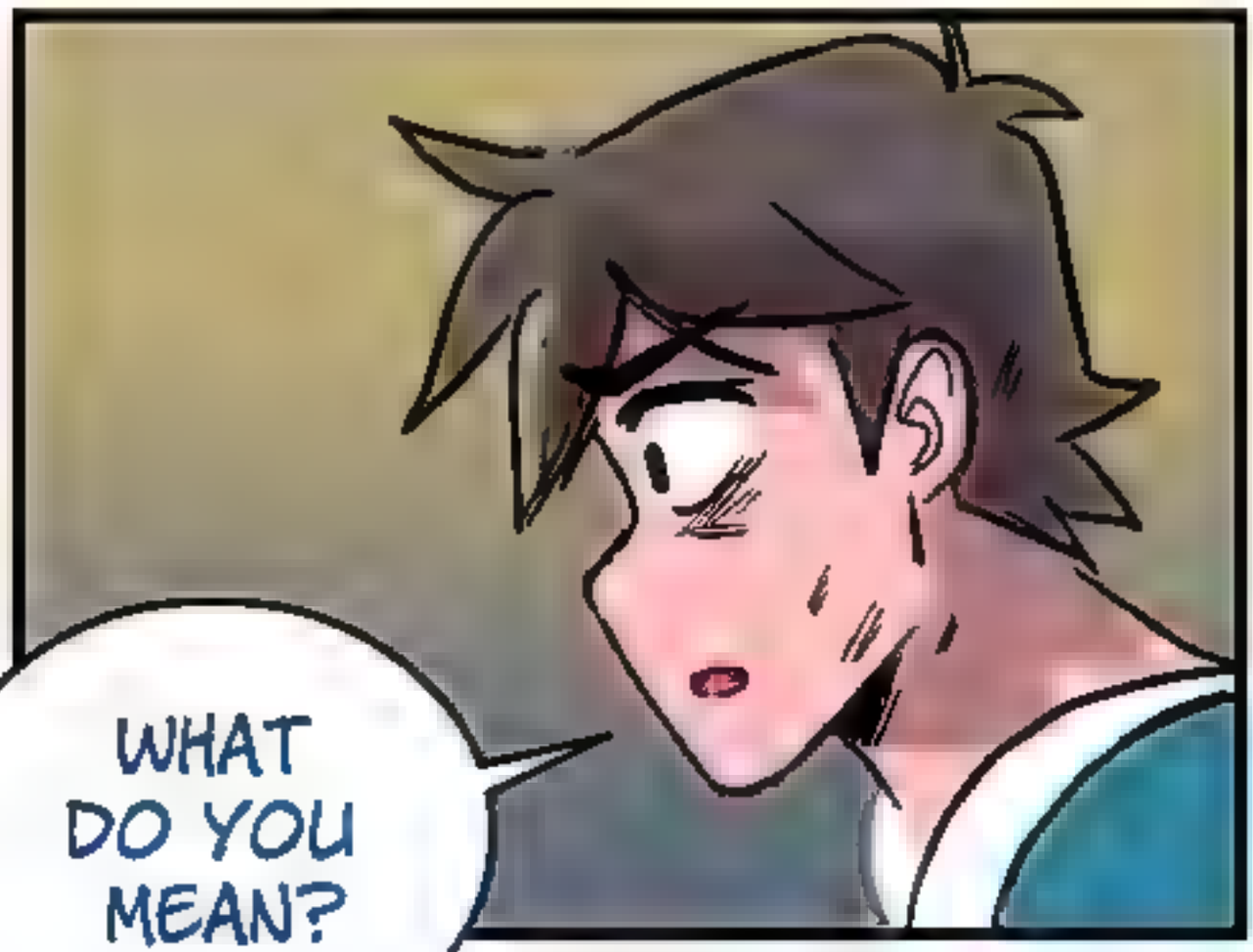
DID GYRUS SAY ANYTHING STRANGE BEFORE HE LEFT? ANY CLUES WOULD BE HELPFUL.

UH, WELL...

HE ASKED ME TO PROMISE TO TELL HIM EVERYTHING IF HE GOT RESET...

AY
DIOS...

IT IS AS I FEARED...

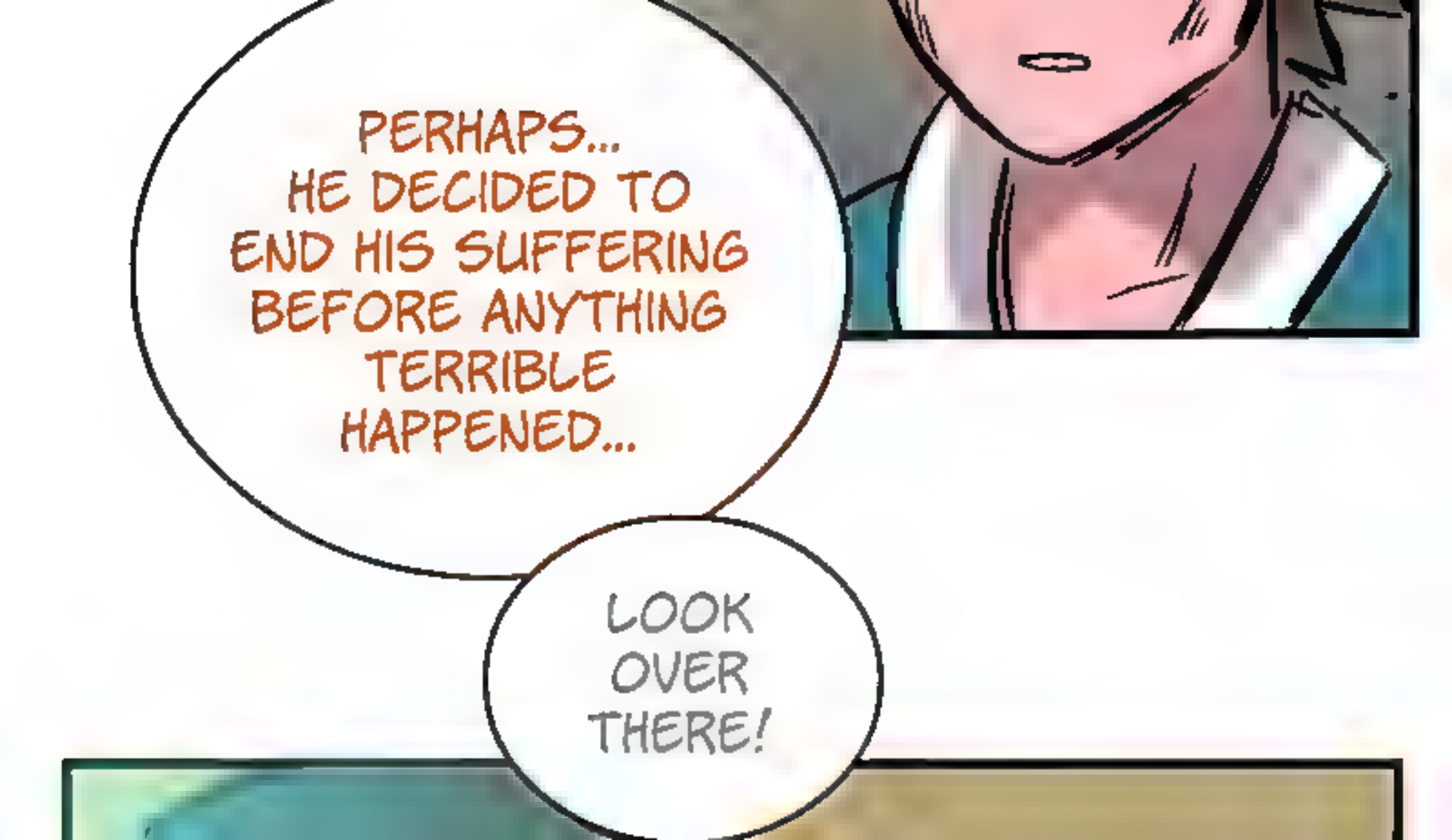


WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

I DID NOT WANT TO SAY ANYTHING TO WORRY EVERYONE, BUT...
GYRUS HAS A DARK SIDE THAT SPEAKS TO HIM... TELLING HIM TO DO TERRIBLE THINGS.

HE TOLD
ME TO LIE FOR HIM
TO KEEP HIS SECRET, BUT
LATELY THE LIES ARE GETTING
TOO MUCH TO KEEP TRACK OF
AND I REALIZE I WAS A
FOOL TO GO ALONG
WITH IT.

I THINK
IT STARTED
GETTING WORSE
AFTER HE CAME BACK
FROM THE SNAKE
REALM...


PERHAPS...
HE DECIDED TO END HIS SUFFERING BEFORE ANYTHING TERRIBLE HAPPENED...
LOOK OVER THERE!

OH MY GOD!
NO WAY!!

GYRUS!
HE'S BACK!!

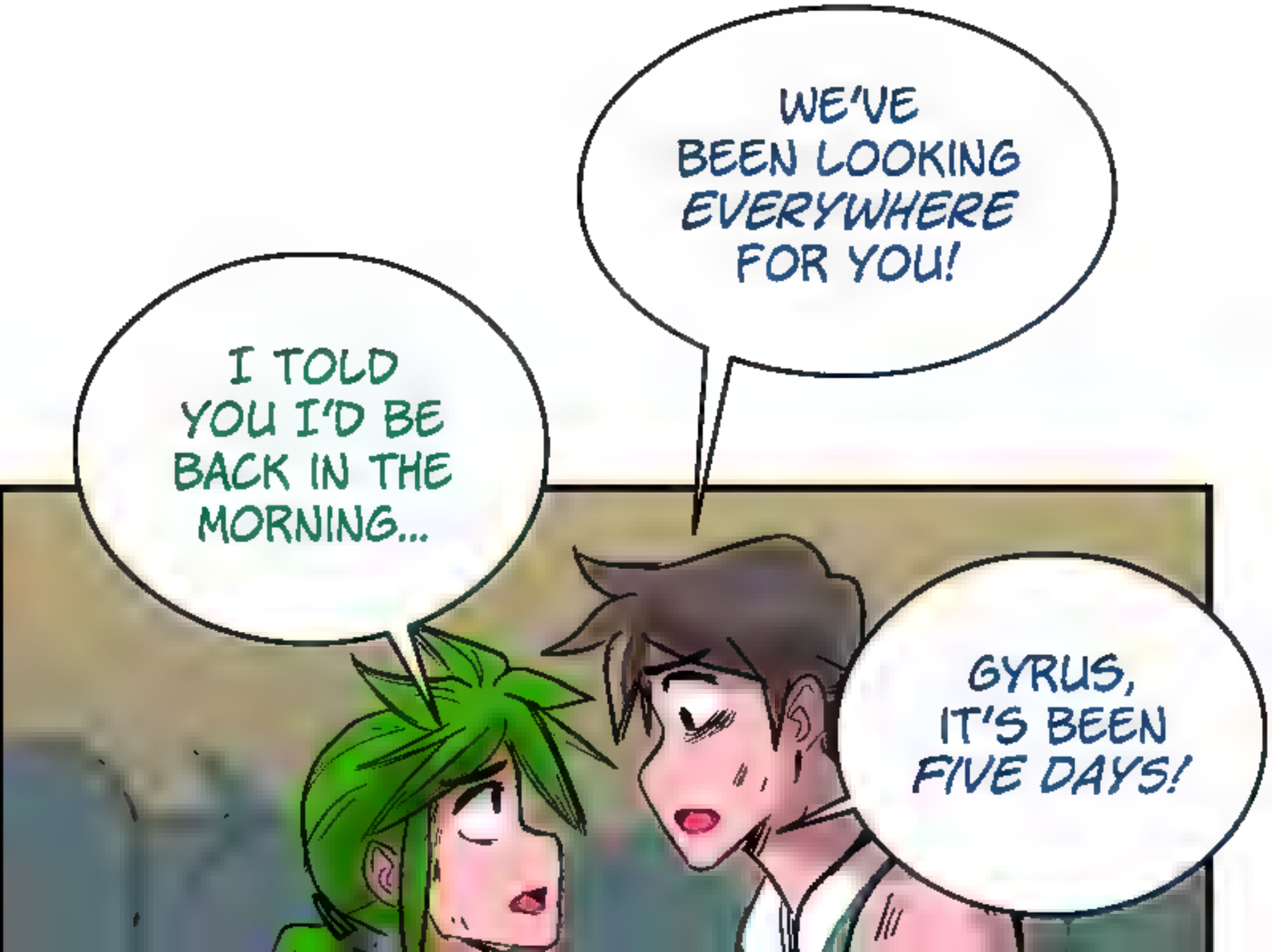
HE'S ALIVE!
IT'S HIM!
WHEN DID HE GET HERE?

ARE YOU OKAY?
DID ON OF THE SEARCH PARTIES FIND YOU?
I'M OKAY, REALLY.

WE WERE SO WORRIED!
ARE YOU HURT?

GYRUS!!

WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?!


WE'VE BEEN LOOKING EVERYWHERE FOR YOU!
I TOLD YOU I'D BE BACK IN THE MORNING...
GYRUS, IT'S BEEN FIVE DAYS!

OH...
I'M SORRY, I GUESS I LOST TRACK OF TIME...
GYRUS... IS EVERYTHING OKAY? YOU CAN TALK TO ME--

GYRUS!

GRACIAS A DIOS, YOU'VE RETURNED!

BE HONEST WITH ME, AMIGO... DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?

ARE THE VOICES GETTING TO YOU?

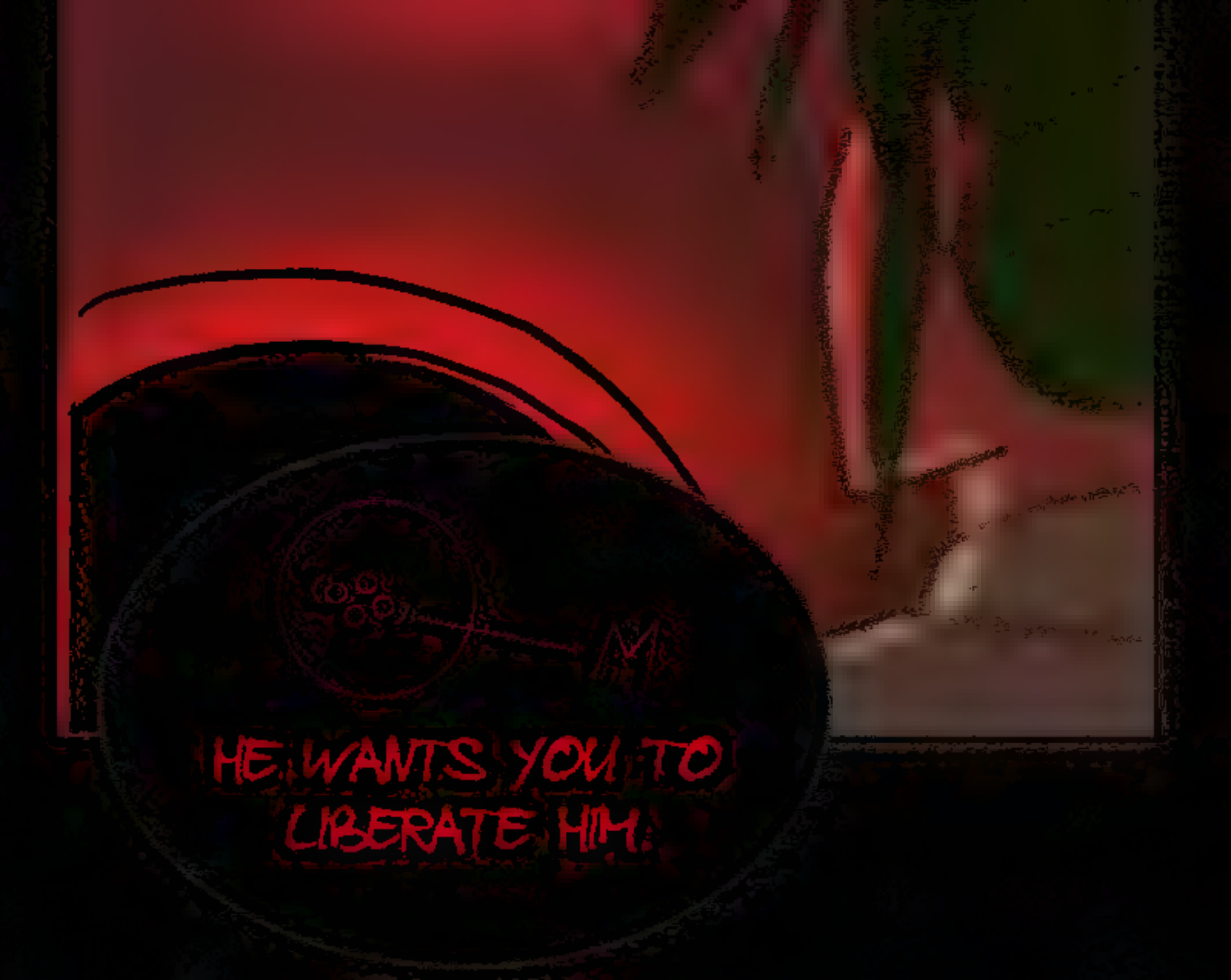
DON'T WORRY, I'M FINE.

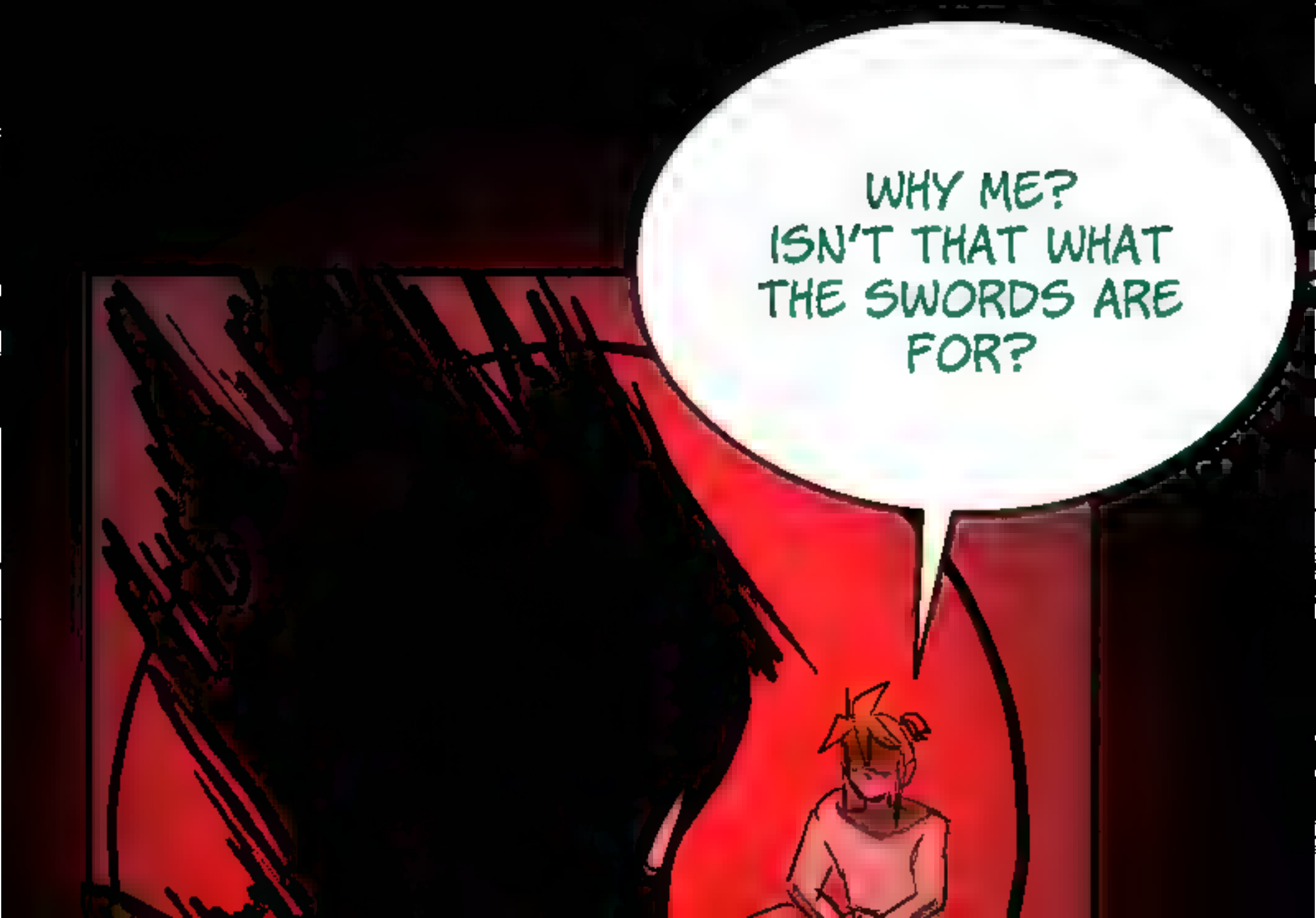
I JUST GOT CARRIED AWAY WITH ONE OF MY PROJECTS...

I FIXED SCOUT!
THEY'LL HELP US RUN RISK ANALYSIS ON THE NEW REALMS!

WHAT IS DON HIDING?
WHAT DOES HE WANT FROM ME?

M.O...
HE WAS EXILED FOR BREAKING THE LAWS OF REALITY.


HE WANTS YOU TO
LIBERATE HIM.

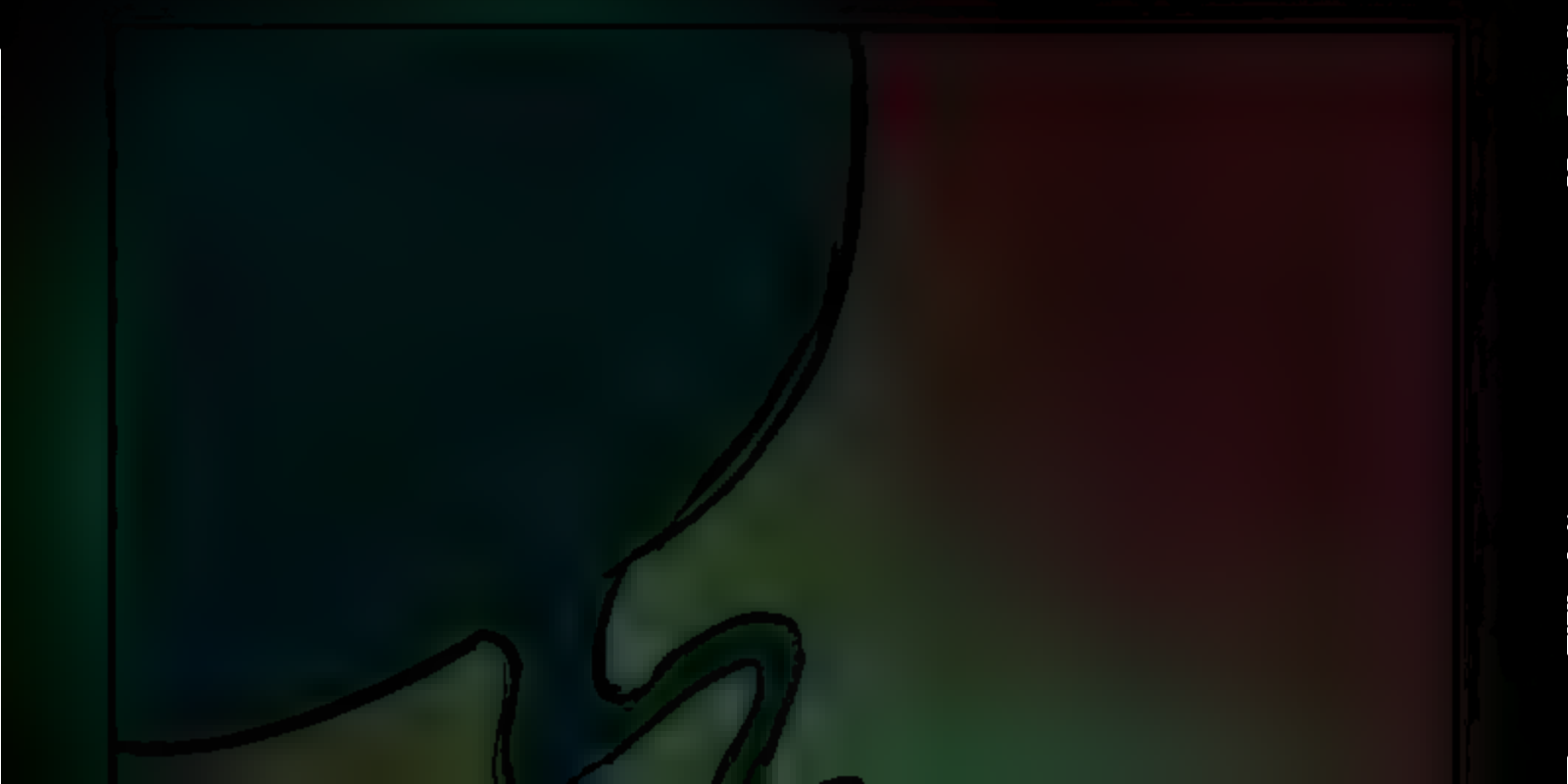

WHY ME?
ISN'T THAT WHAT
THE SWORDS ARE
FOR?

ONLY IN THE
CORRECT
HANDS

!!!
I CAN TRAVEL BETWEEN REALMS USING THE BLACK BOX...

DOES THAT MEAN I CAN USE IT TO TRAVEL BACK TO OUR OWN TIME AND SPACE?

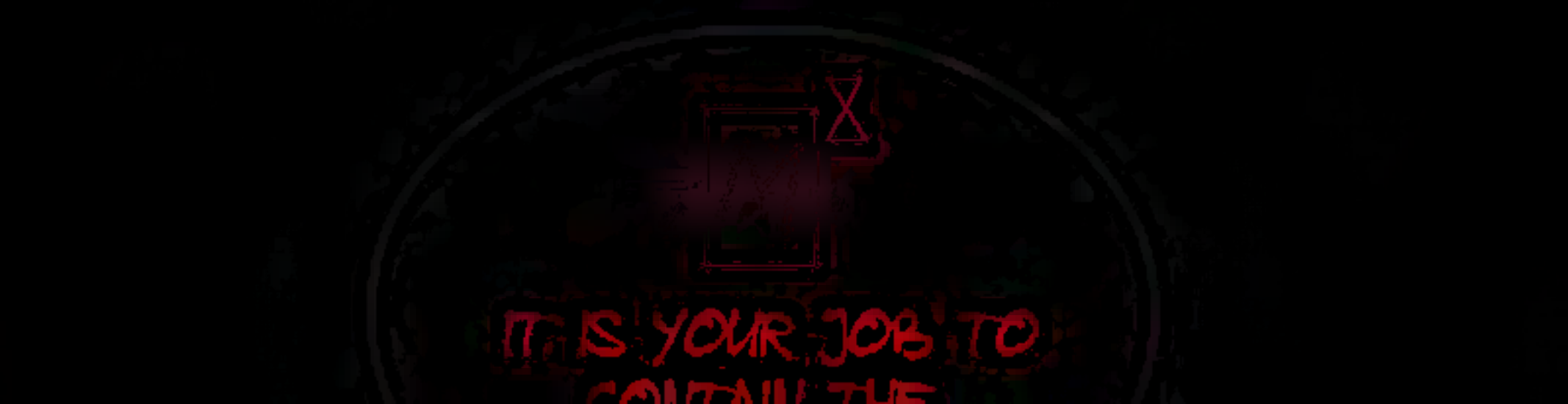
IT WAS ONCE POSSIBLE...

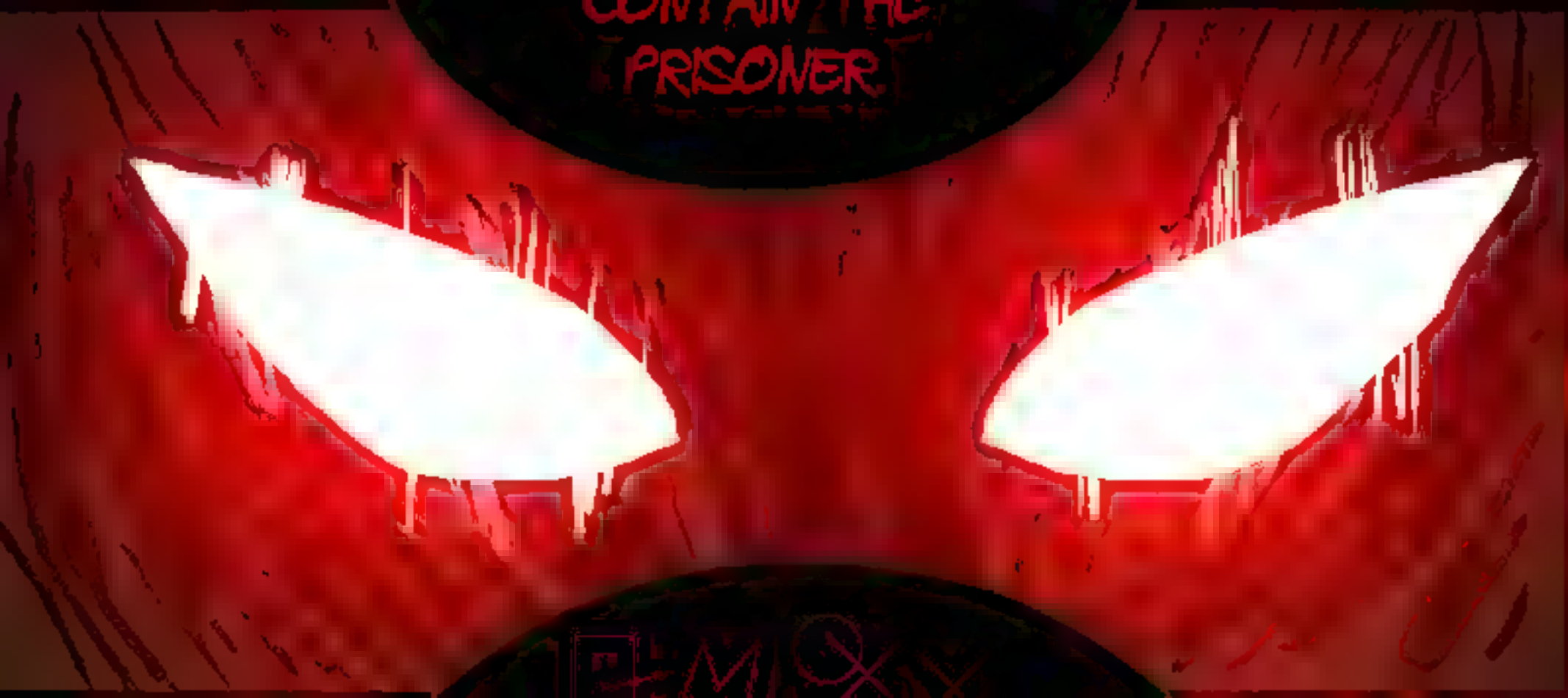


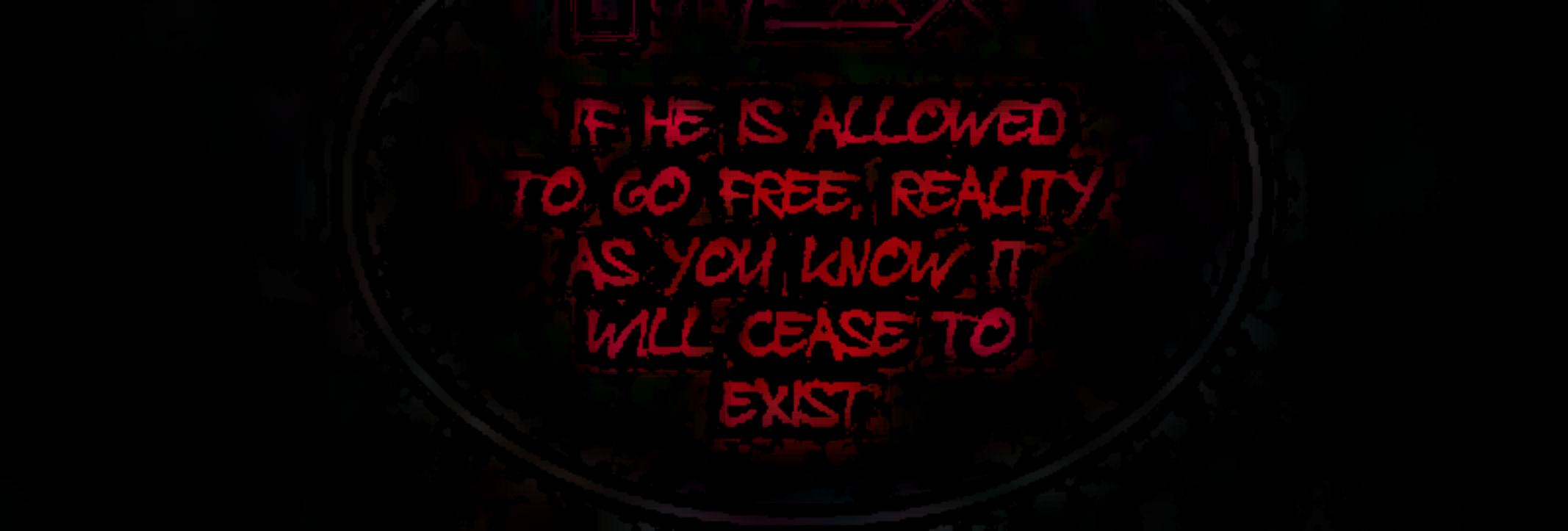
BUT THE CONNECTION HAS BEEN SEVERED

AND THE PIECES MUST NOT BE PUT BACK TOGETHER.

THE SWORDS!


IT IS YOUR JOB TO


CONTAIN THE
PRISONER

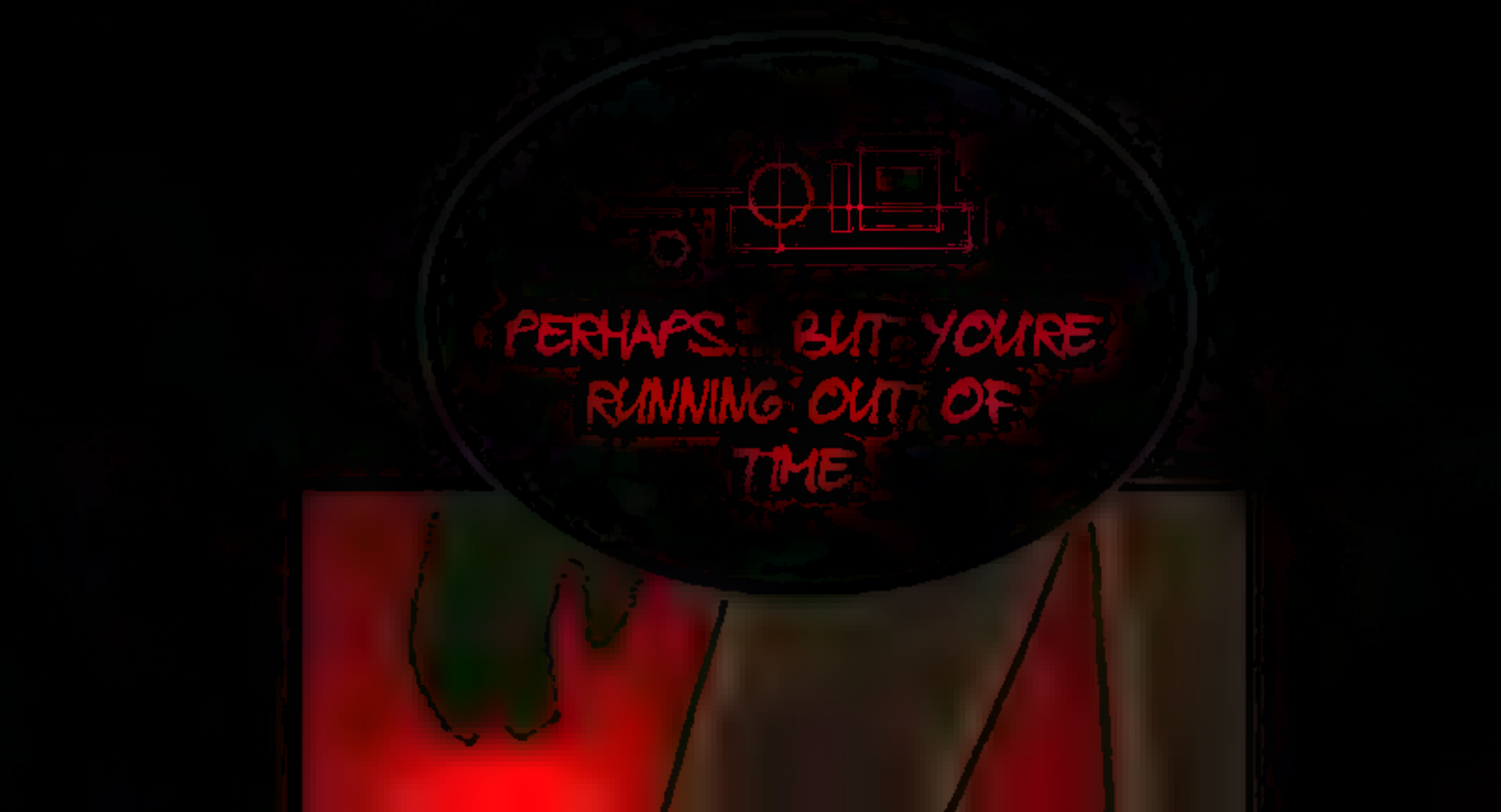

IF HE IS ALLOWED
TO GO FREE, REALITY
AS YOU KNOW IT
WILL CEASE TO
EXIST

ARE YOU SAYING I'M TRAPPED HERE?!

A SMALL PRICE TO PAY...

BUT YOU ARE NO MERE PRISONER... WE WILL MAKE YOU A GOD
WHAT LIFE IS BETTER THAN THAT OF THE OMNIPOTENT?

THAT CAN'T BE IT... THERE MUST BE ANOTHER WAY.


PERHAPS... BUT YOURE RUNNING OUT OF TIME

STAND

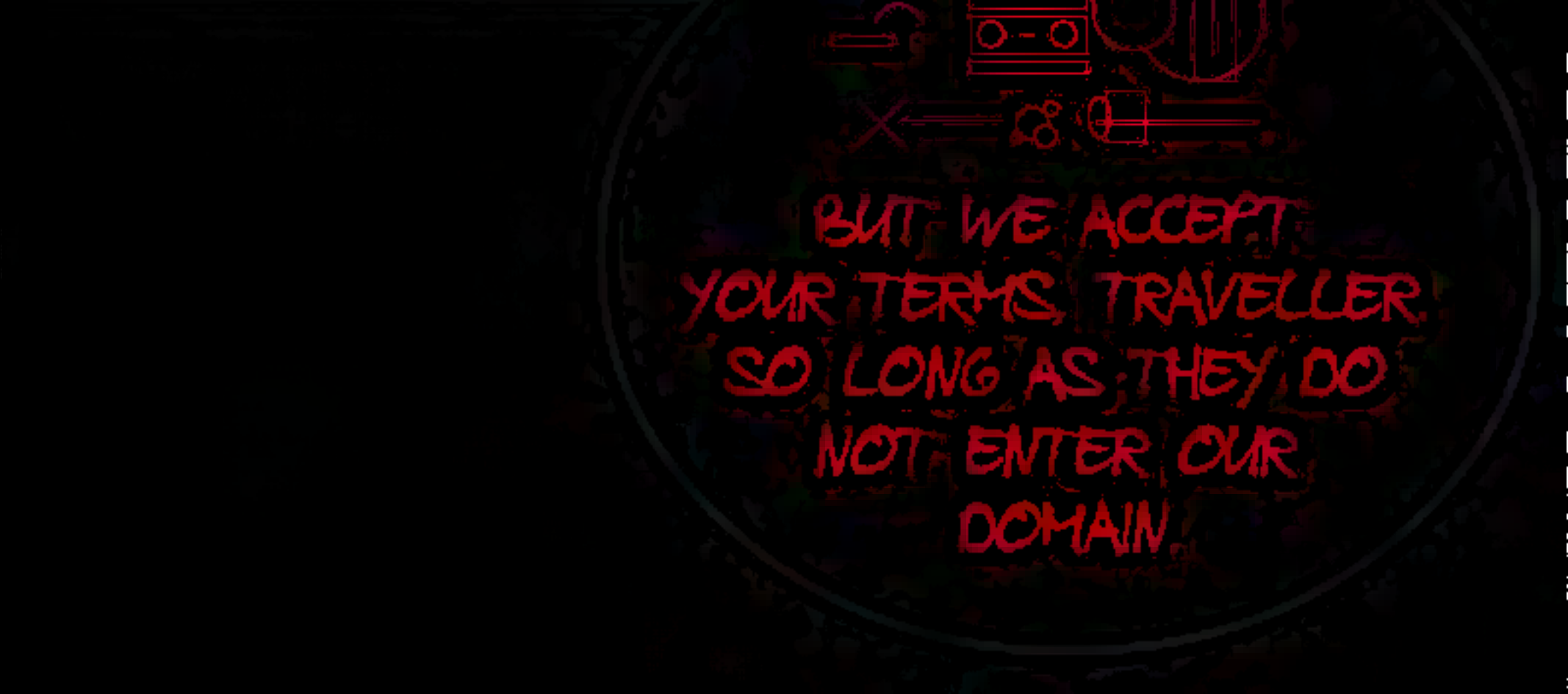
I'LL
ACCEPT THE
RESPONSIBILITY

ON ONE
CONDITION...
THE PEOPLE

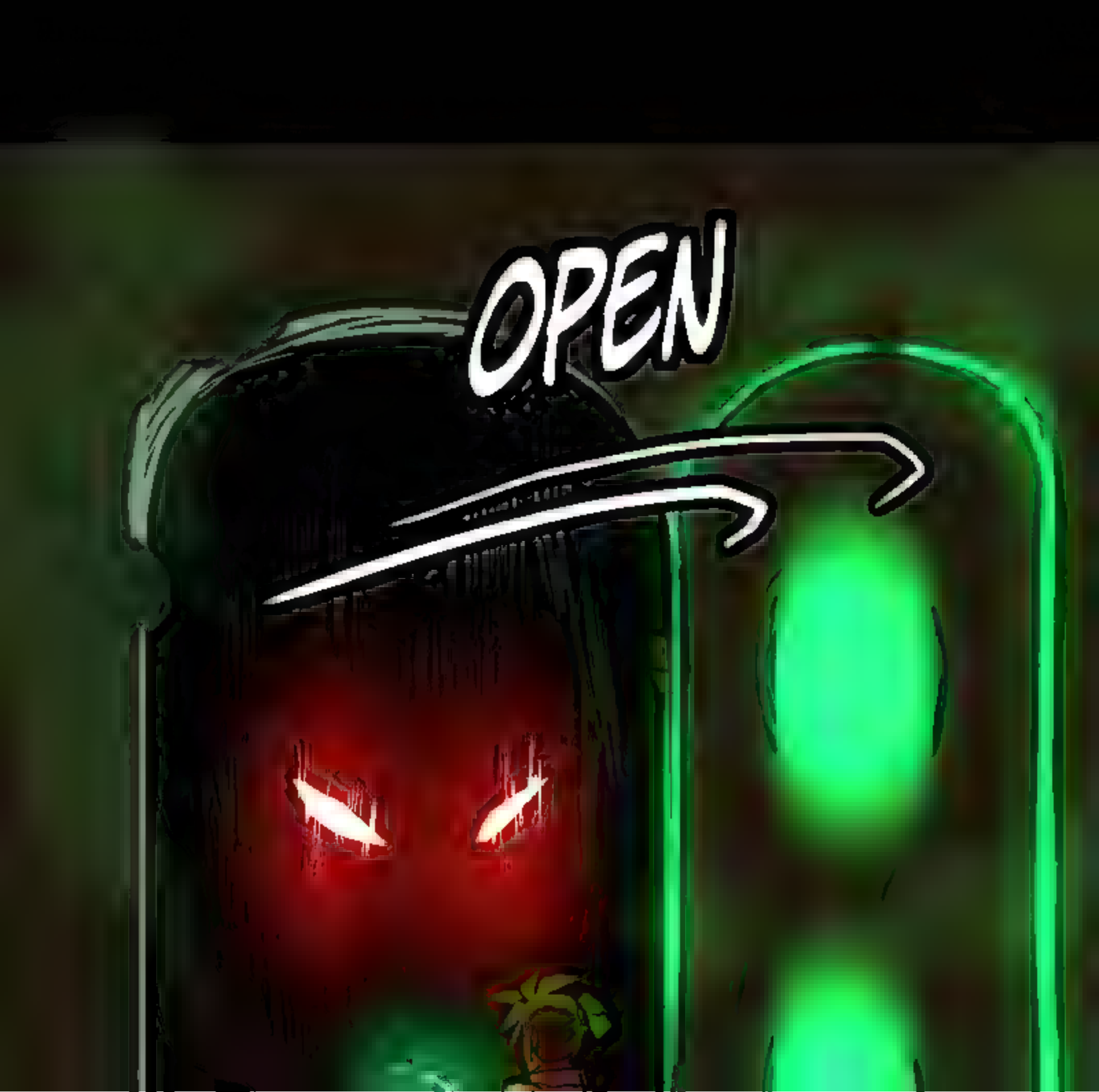
HERE ARE UNDER MY PROTECTION. YOU CAN'T HARM THEM.
DO WE HAVE A DEAL?

A NAIVE

REQUEST


BUT WE ACCEPT
YOUR TERMS, TRAVELLER.
SO LONG AS THEY DO
NOT ENTER OUR
DOMAIN.

GOOD.
THEN SHOW ME
WHAT TO DO.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